



Tuesday 17 March 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to provide an update regarding unfolding events surrounding the Novel Coronavirus COVID 19 situation.

## **AIC Sport**

### **Cricket**

I can confirm that the final round of the Term One AIC Competition in Cricket has been cancelled. All training for Cricket for the remainder of this week is cancelled.

### **Volleyball**

In relation to Volleyball, at this stage training and the Round 7 AIC fixture on Saturday 21 March will proceed until further notice.

### **AFL**

I can confirm that the final round of the Term One AIC Competition in AFL has been cancelled. All training for AFL for the remainder of this week is cancelled.

### **Rugby**

We recently received advice from Rugby Australia that all rugby competitions will be postponed until May 2. On the advice of Rugby Australia, all Ben Mowen and Andrew Slack squad training as well as all rugby trials planned for the remainder of this term will be cancelled.

### **Football**

We are awaiting advice from Football Federation Australia with regards to its response to Coronavirus. All Football training and trials will go ahead as planned. However, this may change given the rugby announcement.

### **Chess**

All Chess training and trials will go ahead as planned.

### **Cross-Country**

All Cross-Country training will go ahead as planned.

### **Basketball and Tennis Development**

All pre-season Basketball and Tennis Development squad programs will go ahead until further notice.

The AIC Management Committee will meet on Thursday 19 March to discuss the management of the sporting fixtures for Term Two and possibly beyond into Term Three. Many of the sport

governing bodies are taking the decision to postpone or cancel sporting fixtures until a date later in the year.

### **Debating**

We have also been advised by the Queensland Debating Union Executive that all debating in the 2020 season has been cancelled pending review at the end of each term.

### **Continuity of Learning**

As shared with parents in previous communications, the College is well placed to support your son(s) if the situation arises that classes are suspended for a period of time. Our highest priority is ensuring that there is continuity in the teaching and learning process and the teachers at Villanova College are firmly committed to this. Other areas such as assessment and reporting are being discussed, however, it is the delivery of the curriculum that is most important.

In order to do this, our students will be working from a number of platforms that allow them to access all the information they need online. All students should have a good working knowledge of accessing and completing work in these 'virtual' spaces. In the past 24 hours, teachers would have briefed their classes on the main ways that information will be accessed if working from home. Briefly, students can expect to:

- Receive an email each day from teachers they would normally have that day
- The email will have in its subject line the year level, the subject and the date (i.e. Year 11 Geography – 19<sup>th</sup> March)
- Parents will be cc'ed in each of these emails
- Teachers will then provide a set of instructions for how work will be accessed, completed and monitored

I would encourage each student over the next 24 hours to access Student Café, Moodle and OneNote and ensure that they have no log in issues. If there are any issues, they should contact IT ([IT@vnc.qld.edu.au](mailto:IT@vnc.qld.edu.au)) as a matter of urgency.

### **IT Infrastructure Testing**

Thank you to those students and parents who participated in the online platform trial last night and for the subsequent feedback. The metrics gathered from last night's exercise has been beneficial in discussions today.

- Accessing the network here at the College and logging into Student Café provided minimal concerns.
- There were speed issues with Moodle. However, given that we would not normally have 1200 students accessing a single area in Moodle at one time, we are confident that under normal working conditions, access speeds will be reliable. The test did allow our IT department the opportunity to see how we can adjust the Moodle server to suit a more virtual environment.

- Many teachers and curriculum areas have moved to OneNote as a platform for content delivery. As OneNote is hosted externally, access to it will not be affected.

### Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reporting are key aspects of the learning process; assessment is being completed at the moment, with examinations periods occurring now (Year 11) and in Week 10 (Years 9 and 10), whilst interim reports are due to be available at the end of the term. The College will continue to hold assessment, particularly examinations, whilst students are here at the College. If classes are suspended, the College will look to schedule examinations and other assessment upon students returning to school. In terms of the Year 11 and 12 cohorts, the College is working closely with Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged. For our Year 12 students, we are fortunate that there are minimal examinations to be completed in Term 2. Assignment work will be the dominant form of assessment and our Curriculum Area Leaders and teachers are working to see how best we can support students in completing these.

Your son(s) should have cleared out their lockers and brought home all of their school equipment by this time. This will allow them to be able to work if classes are suspended. Whilst normal classes are running, students should only bring to school the equipment they need for classes that day.

Finally, it is important that parents are encouraging their sons to focus on their academics. Asking your son about the teaching and learning that is currently occurring, supporting them in staying on top of their study program and helping them prepare for assessment will provide a little normality and allow them to focus on what is valuable.

### Updates

The College has created a special webpage where parents can access all updates and advice from the College and more broadly as we navigate these uncertain times.

<https://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/our-college/covid-19-updates-and-information/>

I thank you for your continued support of the College and assure you that the safety and health of our students and staff remain our priority.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Stower  
Principal